

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on January 12, 2007.

In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for reviewing and considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement of August 14, 2006 and the Information Disclosure Statement of November 6, 2007.

Claims 3-129 have been examined. By this Amendment, the objections to claims 17, 59 and 100 have been corrected. It is therefore requested that these objections be withdrawn.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-39, 46-81 and 88-123 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if written in independent form. By this Amendment, claims 4-13, 46-55 and 88-97 have been written in independent form. Therefore, those claims and the claims depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance along with allowed claims 41, 42, 83, 84, 125 and 126.

Claims 127-129 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In addition, claims 3, 43-45, 85-87 and 127-129 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bjerke et al (USP 7,154,936). While this rejection is respectfully traversed, the rejected claims have been canceled without disclaimer or prejudice to the filing of claims with corresponding subject matter in other applications to obtain protection of that subject matter. Those claims have been canceled herein to obtain early allowance of the subject application with the claims that have been held allowed and allowable in the present Office Action.

Therefore, only claims that have been allowed or held to contain allowable subject matter remain in this application with those claims held to be allowable being written in independent form to place them in condition for allowance. It is therefore requested that the subject application be passed to issue at the earliest possible time.

If for any reason the application is found to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Washington, D.C. telephone number set forth below to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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